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Attn: Local news, weather, health and assignment editors

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Tracy fire continues to impact northern region *Health caution remains for particulate emissions*

The large biomass fire near Tracy continues to produce significant smoke impacts and residents in affected areas should be aware of their local air quality and take necessary precautions to protect themselves.

The fire is being managed by state and local fire officials. However, smoke is being sent to **San Joaquin, Stanislaus** and **Merced** counties and is expected to continue until the fire is extinguished.

Smoke from fires produces fine-particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), which can cause serious health problems including lung disease, asthma attacks, and increased risk of heart attacks and stroke. Where conditions warrant, people with heart or lung disease should follow their doctors' advice for dealing with episodes of particulate exposure. Additionally, older adults and children should avoid prolonged exposure or heavy exertion, depending on their local conditions.

People with existing respiratory conditions, young children and elderly people are especially susceptible to health effects from these pollutants. Air District officials urge residents to follow their doctors' orders when exposed to fire emissions.

The Air District provides the Real-time Air Advisory Network (RAAN), which delivers monitoring data directly to users' computers. It's free and easy to subscribe: www.valleyair.org/RAAN. Schools that are seeing or smelling the smoke near their campus should keep students inside per the Real-time Outdoor Activity Risk (ROAR) Guidelines for a Level 5 <http://www.valleyair.org/Programs/RAAN/documents/RAAN-AQ-activity-guidance-chart.pdf>.

For more information, visit www.valleyair.org or call a District office in Fresno (559-230-6000), Modesto (209-557-6400) or Bakersfield (661-392-5500).